

whom never see a dentist the whole time of their childhood, need a better shot in life because of us as well as them; if we don't believe that those kids that are sitting out there in the barrios in Los Angeles, in the black community, in the Hispanic community, in the Asian-American community, waiting for the resolution of the Rodney King trial only because it stands for everything else that ever happened to them, not because of the trial but because of what it stands for; if we don't think that we need to prove that a county like Los Angeles County with people from 150 different racial and ethnic groups can live together and learn together and grow together and if they play by the rules can have the right to earn a decent living, and we don't think that affects the rest of us, we haven't learned very much in the last 12 years.

And so I ask you to do this: I ask you to go to the Congress and ask them to support this program. And go with respect, because I promise you most of these people are trying to come to grips with the dilemmas of this time. And they have gotten one big message: that is that we made a horrible mistake to let the deficit get out of hand like we did in the last 12 years. And they deserve respect for getting

that message. And they now have a President who will take the lead and fade some of the heat for the unpopularity of the decisions which have to be made. Go with respect for that. Say, "You had to do that, and we respect that."

But remind them that out in the country where you live, bringing down the deficit is important if it gives people jobs and raises people's incomes and if there are people out there who can seize the opportunities of the future. And what you represent is the future. You represent the needs of the people who will not be able to perform even with a sensible economic policy unless we do better in health care, in education, and in dealing with the needs of our poorest children. That is what you represent. None of this other stuff will amount to a hill of beans unless we put the American people first in all of these decisions. That is the message I plead with you to bring to the Congress.

Thank you, and God bless you all.

NOTE: The President spoke at 1:52 p.m. at the Washington Hilton. In his remarks, he referred to Marian Wright Edelman, president, Children's Defense Fund.

Exchange With Reporters Prior to a Meeting With the National Conference of State Legislatures March 11, 1993

President Boris Yeltsin of Russia

Q. Mr. President, do you think Yeltsin's going to survive?

The President. I think that he is the duly elected President of Russia and a genuine democrat, small "d," and that he is leading a country that is trying bravely to do two things: one, escape from communism into market economics, a world they never lived in before; and second, to preserve real democracy. That's a tough job. It's pretty hard to do here. [Laughter]

I intend to do what I can to be supportive of that process and to be supportive of him while he serves as President of Russia. I don't know what else to tell you. I'm not a seer. I don't know what's going to happen to him or to me tomorrow. But I've got confidence

in him. I'm going to work with him as long as I can.

Attorney-General-Designate Janet Reno

Q. What about Janet Reno?

The President. I'm elated by that. I had some Senators in the office, and I said, "That may be the only vote I carry 98 to 0 this year." But I enjoyed it. She's an extraordinary person, and I think she will do well.

We've got to go. Thank you.

Q. When is she going to be sworn in?

The President. When?

Q. When?

The President. Soon, I hope. I've been waiting

Mar. 11 / Administration of William J. Clinton, 1993

for someone in the Justice Department for a while now.

NOTE: The exchange began at 4:15 p.m. in the State Dining Room at the White House.

Exchange With Reporters Prior to a Meeting With the Congressional Caucus for Women's Issues

March 11, 1993

Abortion Clinic Shooting

Q. Mr. President, do you have any reaction to the shooting of Dr. Gunn in Pensacola?

The President. Yes. I was outraged by it. We have got to create a climate in this country where people do not think that is acceptable. And I think that's—how could someone have thought that they could take civil disobedience and carry it one extra step? Dr. Gunn was exercising his constitutional rights. And what happened was awful.

President Boris Yeltsin of Russia

Q. [Inaudible]—Yeltsin apparently had informed you that he plans to dissolve or may

have to dissolve the Parliament. Have you gotten word of that, and what's your reaction to it?

The President. I have had no communication from him today, or if it has, it hasn't been communicated to——

Q. Thank you.

Chancellor Helmut Kohl of Germany

Q. How about Mr. Kohl? Has Mr. Kohl called you about a summit?

The President. If he has, no one on my staff has told me he's called me today.

NOTE: The exchange began at 5:35 p.m. in the Roosevelt Room at the White House. A tape was not available for verification of the content of this exchange.

Statement on the Death of Dr. David Gunn

March 11, 1993

I was saddened and angered by the fatal shooting in Pensacola yesterday of Dr. David Gunn. The violence against clinics must stop. As a nation committed to rule of law, we cannot allow violent vigilantes to restrict the rights of

American women. No person seeking medical care and no physician providing that care should have to endure harassment, threats, or intimidation.

Statement on Joint Production Venture Legislation

March 11, 1993

I want to commend Chairman Jack Brooks, Senator Pat Leahy, Chairman Joe Biden, and the bipartisan leadership of the House and Senate Judiciary Committees on the introduction today of an important new bill to help create jobs and build a more competitive, high-tech American economy. This bill, the National Co-operative Production Amendments of 1993, will

pave the way for companies large and small to pool their resources and talents in new joint production ventures. It is just the kind of forward-thinking initiative we need to drive our economy toward a decade of creative change.

We live in a world in which our competitive advantage flows more and more from our command of high technology, but in which the de-